(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) : (a) to (b) No, Sir. The World Bank Supervision Mission for Orissa Water Resources Consolidation Project (January, 2000) has, however, suggested downsizing the Orissa Lift Irrigation Corporation to make it efficient and viable.

**Irrigation Projects**

3957. SHRI R. MARGABANDU : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering to waive off the provision of the State share in the current financial year in view of the stringent financial position of the Government of Orissa due to recent super cyclone in respect of major and medium irrigation projects in KBK districts of Orissa; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) : (a) to (b) The Central Loan Assistance under Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme is provided on year to year basis. No request has been received from the Government of Orissa to waive off the provision of the State share in the current financial year i.e. 2000-2001 in respect of their major and medium irrigation projects in KBK districts.

**Human and Material Losses due to Excess Water Floods**

3958. MISS MABEL REBELLO : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the country suffer enormous human and material losses due to excess water floods and also from drought and lack of rain and that precious water goes to sea and is lost forever;

(b) whether Government are seriously considering about conserving precious rain water as Scientists have forecasted that India in the next Millennium will face the worst drought ever in the world; and

(c) whether Government have taken any viable measures to avoid this calamity which may fall the country in the near future and millions of people may suffer due to inadequate drinking water ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY) : (a) to (c) Rainfall in the country is highly variable both in time and space. This results in floods in some parts of the country, whereas the other parts are affected by droughts. About 40 Mha of the area in the country is flood prone whereas 51.13 Mha is drought prone. On an average 7.5 Mha area is affected annually by floods with average damages of the order of Rs. 1,155 crore. On an average 1, 529 human lives are lost due to floods. India receives an average annual rainfall of about 4000 Billion Cubic Meter (BCM) including snow. Out of this, 3, 000 BCM occurs during monsoon resulting in an average annual flow of about 1869 BCM in the various rivers of the country. The utilisable runoff by conventional methods has been assessed as 690 Billion Cubic Meter (BCM). A live storage capacity of 176.73 BCM has been created by construction of large dams upto 1995 including about 3 BCM capacity created by medium & small dams. Projects to add an additional capacity of about 75.42 BCM are under construction and 132.32 BCN are under planning. Out of 432 BCM of replenishable ground water, 260 BCM has been tapped. In order to complete the ongoing projects, Government is providing Central Loan Assistance underAccelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme. The National Water Policy (1987) stipulates that drinking water requirement should be the first charge on any available water. In addition, Command Area Development Programme is being implemented to fully utilize the potential created.

Government of India is also promoting Rain Water Harvesting through Watershed Management Programme, Artificial Recharge of Ground Water and roof-top rain water harvesting under the Sector reform Project of Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme under the Ministry of Rural Development for which technical and financial assistance is provided to the State Government and other implementing agencies. Central Ground Water Board has also taken up pilot studies for artificial ground water recharge.

**Clearance to external aided projects of Gujarat**

3959. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of externally aided projects of Gujarat which are lying pending for scrutiny in the Ministry of Water Resources as on 31st December, 1999; and